

Business Area # 9:
Porter Square/ North
Cambridge

Boundaries: bordered by the Somerville line, the Arlington Line, the Alewife Brook Parkway and the Boston & Maine Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks



Porter Square

The dramatic decline in **commercial breaks** (-28%) continues over the first six months of 2002 in the Porter Square business district. Throughout the decade of the 1990's, Porter Square had been hit with at least two high profile clusters of commercial breaks each year. From 1995 to 1999, this area was averaging 45 commercial breaks annually. This trend was reversed in 1999 when a 56% decrease was recorded. The five breaks recorded in this area in 2002 were scattered and two were the work of juveniles into local schools. • Thefts from classrooms in area schools helped to propel a 54% increase in **larceny from buildings** in Porter Square. There has also been a rise in the theft of employee's property from hair salons and health clubs near the shopping center. • As in Central Square, the preponderance of **shoplifting** (+58%) arrests in Porter Square involves the homeless stealing food from the grocery or personal items from drug stores. • **Larceny from the person** increased by two incidents from 15 to 17 with the long standing pattern of pickpockets targeting the elderly while grocery shopping still a problem. The majority of these incidents are going down on weekend nights between 5PM and 8PM. • The only **commercial robbery** reported in Porter Square occurred when a jewelry storeowner had a knife pulled on him in March. This case is still under investigation. •

| CRIME | 2 nd Quarter 2001 | 2 nd Quarter 2002 | %CHANGE |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Larceny from Building | 11 | 17 | +54% |
| Larceny from Person | 13 | 15 | +15% |
| Commercial Burglary | 7 | 5 | -28% |
| Commercial Robbery | 2 | 1 | -50% |
| Shoplifting | 12 | 19 | +58% |
| Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting | 15 | 20 | +33% |